

## Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 IO-10

OES-03 FEAE-00 ARAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 /078 W

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O 141610Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7995

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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BRASILIA FOR ASST SEC ROGERS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD ENRG VE

SUBJ: AMENDMENT TO TRADE ACT OF 1974

REF: (A) CARACAS 1822 (B) CARACAS 2805

1. MR WILLIAM RHODES, PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INFORMED THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 14 THAT HE HAD TALKED BY TELEPHONE EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH MR ROBERT BEST, CHIEF ECONOMIST OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, ABOUT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TRADE ACT TO PROVIDE GSP ELIGIBILITY TO VENEZUELA AND OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE OIL EMBARGO. BEST INFORMED RHODES THAT HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT AN APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT CAN BE INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND THAT PROSPECTS FOR ITS PASSAGE ARE GOOD. BEST REITERATED HIS CONCERN (REFTEL (A)), HOWEVER, THAT GOV OFFICIALS SAY

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NOTHING LOCALLY OR IN THE IA-ECOSOC MEETING IN WASHINGTON

WHICH WOULD UNDERMINE THIS FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE.

2. RHODES SAID THAT HE AND OTHER CHAMBER OFFICIALS HAD DISCREETLY CONTACTED KEY GOV OFFICIALS AND HAD IN FACT SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING THE DELETION OF PASSAGE IN THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS REFERRING TO THE TRADE ACT. RHODES WAS PLEASED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE HAD ALSO DESCRIBED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN WHAT HE REGARDED AS A FRIENDLY AND FAVORABLE WAY (REFTEL B). HE ALSO NOTED THAT VENEZUELA'S POSITION ON THE TRADE ACT IN THE IA-ECOSOC MEETING IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN QUITE MODERATE. RHODES ASSUMED THAT THE CHAMBER'S EFFORTS AND THOSE OF THE EMBASSY HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE GOV'S MODERATE STANCE. RHODES SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ' FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF THE US IN HIS ANNUAL MESSAGE SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AT AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CONCURS WITH RHODES' OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOV. WE STRONGLY ENDORSE HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH THE US (REFTEL B) BE MADE KNOWN TO KEY CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS. THE EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ'S REMARKS AT AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, ENRG, VE, US, OPEC, (BEST, ROBERT), (RHODES, WILLIAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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